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# Polymorphism

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

## Source

*National Cancer Institute (NCI). Polymorphism.*

A common mutation. "Common" is typically defined as an allele frequency of at least 1%. All genes occur in pairs, except when x and y chromosomes are paired in males; thus a polymorphism with an allele frequency of 1% would be found in about 2% of the population, with most carriers having one copy of the polymorphism and one copy of the normal allele.